

Newsletters in September 2012

Multiple Ways to Applique

September 20, 2012

Our 42 wedding anniversary trip to the Swiss Alps and Northern Italy has my head spinning with new quilt ideas. It really was the trip of a life time. Bruce looked better than ever on that gondola in Venice. He jumped off a 3,000 foot cliff in Switzerland to go paragliding. No, I did not go with him! its good to let your spouse do their own thing. *Mine is quilting- not jumping off of cliffs!* Next week I leave for a teaching trip to Kamloops, Canada. I have been really looking forward to that trip too. The Marigolds are passionate applique quilters with lots of talent and experience. I fully expect to come back having learned lots from them too. Then it will be a quiet fall and time to start a new quilt. Which one first? There are lots of pictures on my Facebook page.

Yea, my new DVD is done and I am thrilled with it - Multiple Ways to Applique.(Check out the short video clip in my web store). I have wanted to do a technique video for a long time. The DVD is 1 hour and 45 minutes long. I hope quilters will feel like they are right next to me in a class room. There are so many great methods for applique.

Sizing and Starch is my go to method for simple shapes like leaves, that do not need to be precise. Freezer Paper allows you to make sure that you get a birds head to look like the pattern. Needle Turn is the only way to deal with tiny complex edges. Fused saves time and may be the only reasonable way to make a tiny eye or little branch that is too small to turn under your edges. Machine Applique gives added definition and can be used for turned under edges or raw edges.

Nine block patterns to practice on are included on the disk, with instructions for making the featured quilt, "Song Birds in Summer". Bonus materials include hand embroidery stitches and adding shading with fabric paint crayons to enhance the form and dimension of your birds and flowers. I demonstrate how to create a nest using an embroidery hoop, tulle, and free motion quilting. 3 Dimensional thread embellishments are a fun technique for creating lots of textural interest for any quilt or block.



Yes, I do love birds. Speaking of which, the **patterns for 'Audubon Christmas'** are still on track with the printer for the Houston show at the end of October. Of course you can use multiple applique techniques to make those panels too. Look for those patterns in my web store at the end of October.

[Tip -Painting your own back ground sky and water fabric.](#)

In my experience, shopping for sky and water fabric is often incredibly frustrating. So many of the prints have a cartoon quality, the repeat is too symmetrical or they lack any shading. They just do not look realistic. In my August retreat, we learned to paint our own. It's not hard and it's lots of fun. Try it. Buy PFD (Prepared For Dyeing) fabric from E quilter or Dharma Trading Company (on line). I love the cotton sateen. Look for Seta color paints or dyes. Either work. The paints are more opaque and the dyes more translucent. Lay your fabric on a plastic sheet, or, to prevent puddling, staple it to a wood frame from your hobby shop. Start by misting it with water from a spray bottle. Use foam brushes or a sponge. Gradually transition from lights to darks or one color to the next. Soften those edges by using your spray bottle with a light mist. Add salt crystals for a twinkling night sky look. If you still have sunny days, both paint products will sun set any image you lay on top of the fabric; like ferns or leaves. We had so much fun. Dharma has a great tutorial describing how to use each product.

www.dharmatrading.com/html/eng/6044983-AA.shtml



Look for me at the Houston show with my fellow teacher and award winning quilting buddy Kathy Wylie. "Natural Wonders" won something, but we won't know what till the awards dinner. It's pretty darn exciting to win something at AQS Paducah and at the Houston show all in the same year. Now if I could just loose 30 pounds, I might be able to check everything off of my wish list.

There are a few spots left for the **Caribbean Quilting Cruise February 10th-17th** next year. If you have ever dreamed of cruising, it doesn't get better than Quilt Seminars at Sea. I love working with them. We always have a blast. Fun teachers, lots of special events, machines and a quilt shop on board. Check it out. www.quiltcruises.com

Congratulations to Patti Mitchell for her award winning quilt at the Pacific West Quilt Festival. See it in my student web gallery. **Carolyn Abbott's** quilt based on my Tiffany patterns got accepted into PIQF this year too! Keep on creating and taking care of yourselves at the same time.

hugs Kathy.